

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SECRET
INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT: Russian OB in Thuringia

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1. Eisenach (H-76): During the first half of February 1948, more troops and equipment arrived at Eisenach and were quartered in the environs of the city. The better part of a Russian division is now stationed in the area with the following equipment:

- Approximately 125 T-34 tanks
- " 100 Josef Stalin tanks
- " 80 light and heavy field rocket launchers
- " 60 self-propelled guns on T-34 chassis

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Comment: These may possibly be elements of the 57th Guards Rifle Division

2. During the same period, twenty to forty young Russian officers arrived every evening by express train from the east and were taken at once in trucks to the Eisenach training area. The thunder of guns from this area is heard every day in Eisenach.

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3. By 17 February, units were ontraining for the east again at the Eisenach freight station, while corresponding new units arrived. most of the troops in the Eisenach area have come from Saxony.

4. Erfurt (J-36): During the week beginning 9 February 1948, more Russian troops were seen in Erfurt than had been seen in several months. These troops, of whom a high percentage were Mongolian, were young and fit and looked like combat material.

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5. The following rail movements through Erfurt were observed on the dates indicated:

12 February: Five trains en route to Eisenach (H-76) at approximately 0730, four carried artillery, motor transport, and troops, while the fifth hauled field rocket launchers, twenty officers, and 130 men. This latter train was unloaded at Mechterstadt (H-96), since the Eisenach yards were full.

Night of 12/13 February: One train carrying a troop of apparently factory-new tanks--unloaded at Vieselbach (J-37).

16 February: Three trains carrying troops and motor transport in the direction of Weimar; another train hauling tanks, also in the direction of Weimar, was later observed returning in the opposite direction, still carrying the same units.

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- 17 February: Four long troop trains proceeding west.
- 18 February: Two trainloads of tanks in a westerly direction.
6. Weimar (J-57): Between 4 and 18 February 1948, approximately forty trainloads of Russian civilians passed through Weimar in an easterly direction.
7. Ohdruf Training Area: During the last week of January and the first ten days of February 1948, maneuvers on at least a divisional scale were carried out at the Ohdruf (J-15) training area. Maneuvers involving approximately 30,000 men were originally scheduled to take place during March 1948, but all preparations were stopped early in February.
8. Klein Entersdorf (J-75): The following supplies were delivered to the former jet aircraft works here between 20 February and early March 1948: 500 truckloads of ammunition varying in caliber from the small arms variety to 120 mm., plus several thousand kilograms of explosives.

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